



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 19, 2007

### **S. 535**

### **Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on June 14, 2007*

#### **SUMMARY**

S. 535 would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million a year over the 2008-2017 period for the Department of Justice (DOJ) to investigate and prosecute certain unsolved homicides committed prior to 1970. The bill would also authorize the appropriation of \$3.5 million annually over the 2008-2017 period to provide technical assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies, as well as make grants to those agencies for expenses related to the investigation and prosecution of such crimes. CBO estimates that implementing S. 535 would cost \$10 million in 2008 and \$63 million over the 2008-2012 period, subject to appropriation of the authorized amounts. Enacting this legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 535 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no cost on state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 535 is shown in the following table. The cost of this legislation falls within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

#### **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 535 would be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2007 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each year. We estimate that implementing S. 535 would cost a total of \$10 million in 2008 and \$63 million over the 2008-2012 period.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>					
<b>Investigation and Prosecution of Unsolved Crimes</b>					
Authorization Level	10	10	10	10	10
Estimated Outlays	9	10	10	10	10
<b>Grants to State and Local Law Enforcement</b>					
Authorization Level	2	2	2	2	2
Estimated Outlays	0	1	1	2	2
<b>Community Relations Service</b>					
Authorization Level	2	2	2	2	2
Estimated Outlays	1	1	2	2	2
<b>Total Changes</b>					
Authorization Level	14	14	14	14	14
Estimated Outlays	10	12	13	14	14

### **Investigation and Prosecution of Unsolved Crimes**

S. 535 would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million a year over the 2008-2017 period for the investigation and prosecution of civil rights violations involving homicides committed before 1970. The legislation would direct the Attorney General to designate a Deputy Chief in the Civil Rights Division of DOJ to coordinate with a newly created Supervisory Special Agent in the Civil Rights Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to carry out those responsibilities. Based on the spending patterns for similar DOJ activities, CBO estimates that implementing this provision would cost \$9 million in 2008 and \$49 million over the 2008-2012 period.

### **Grants to State and Local Law Enforcement**

S. 535 would authorize the appropriation of \$2 million annually over the 2008-2017 period for DOJ to make grants to state and local law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute certain civil rights cases. CBO estimates that implementing this provision would cost \$6 million over the 2008-2012 period.

## **Community Relations Service**

S. 535 would authorize the appropriation of \$1.5 million a year over the 2008-2017 period for the Community Relations Service of DOJ to aid in investigating and prosecuting those unsolved civil rights cases. Costs would include technical assistance and other expenses related to the coordination of law enforcement officials and affected communities with DOJ. CBO estimates that this provision would cost \$1 million in 2008 and nearly \$8 million over the 2008-2012 period.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 535 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On June 19, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 923, the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007, as ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on June 13, 2007. The two bills are very similar, and the CBO cost estimates are identical.

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